

LUCKY POINTS FOR HITCHIN

THE Wanderers' 1-0 defeat by Hitchin on Wednesday underlined as in no game yet this season the team's major weakness—lack of fire power in the forward line, writes "Spot Kick".

On the attack for three parts of the game, and often producing sparkling football in approach, Wycombe ought to have won by five or six clear goals.

But there was no spearhead to thrust home the attacks. Rarely has so much energy been expended to so little effect:

Of the inside trio, only Horseman impressed as lively enough to beat goalkeeper Hammond, but even he was badly off the mark this time. Once in the second half Hammond twice dropped the ball as Horseman harassed him, but the Wycombe man's final shot went wide.

EXPERIMENT

Thomas was rarely in the picture and the experiment of switching Worley inside to make room for Page on the right wing failed to solve the problem, though Worley often mesmerised the Hitchin backs—and his own forwards—by his persistent pattern-weaving.

Certainly the Wanderers had the worst of luck throughout. Exasperated fans were bewildered when a goal by Hodges after 15 minutes was disallowed by the referee, and confident claims later for a penalty were ignored.

There were some ludicrous misses in front of goal, notably by Worley and Pullin, but Hitchin were phenomenally lucky once or twice.

Once right-back Clarke swung wildly at a shot from Worley and saw his 'clearance' hit the underside of the cross-bar and rebound out and later

a shot from Horseman was whipped off the goal-line.

Hitchin spent much of their time packing their goal against Wycombe's swarming but diffuse assaults. Their own sporadic attacks showed the home defence in improved form; and Syrett, cool and capable in his comeback to the senior side—except on the one fatal occasion, 25 minutes after the interval, when a defensive lapse let through inside-right Waldock to score the decider.

Wycombe Wanderers—D. Syrett; J. Beck, A. Lewis, G. Pullin, P. Roystone, J. Cooper; M. Page, L. Worley, D. Thomas, A. Horseman, P. Hodges.